(d) the scheduled completion date of modernisation programme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) In April, 1994 a bilateral assistance Project Document has been prepared for implementation of the Project in phases.The first phase is expected to commence with exchange of Side letters between the two Governments, viz. India and Netherlands in August, 1995. Completion of first phase is envisaged in September, 1997.

Lack of Train facilities in between Durg and Bhagalpur

1091. SHRI GAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that here is not a single daily train in between Durg and Bhagalpur via Rourkela, Ranchi, Bokaro, Gaya, Patna, Barauni;

(b) whether it is also a fact that this route has many important industrial places like Bokaro Steel Plants, H.E.C., BHEL at Ranchi; Dhanbad Coalfield; Sindri Fertilizer Plant and Rourkela Steel Plant and religious places like Rajgrih, Patna, Sahib, Nalanda, Baidyanath Dham, Rawpuri, Bihar Sharif;

(c) if so, whether Railways are planning to start a superfast train in the route; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) to (d) There is no train between Durg and Bhagalpur. The route suggested is too circuitous and therefore no train touching places like Rajgir, Nalanda, Baidyanathdham, Barauni can be introduced. Besides, there are operational and resource constraints.

Bogus Passports Issued by Jalandhar Passport Office

1092. SHRI INDER KUMAR GUJRAL:
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:
SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE:
SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the newsitem reported in the 'Tribune' of July 7, 1995 captioned "Forged passport rakcet busted" stating that a large number of terrorist harbourers have fled from India under forged passports prepared by an office in Jalandhar;

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto, indicating the details of persons nabbed in connection therewith and what are the details of the racket and its modus operandi; and

(c) whether any other such passport rackets have come to light during the past three years and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R.L. BHATIA): (a) and (b) During the period 1992-93, some passports were issued by the Passport Office Jalandhar by substituting photographs of the original applicants and tampering with original records. In this connection, on July 5, 1995 police authorities have arrested three officials of whom one is a regular employee and two casual workers, from Passport Office, Jalandhar and produced them before the Chief Judicial Magistrate, Jalandhar. They were remanded to Judicial custody and investigations in this connection are in progress. The arrested regular employee has since been placed under suspension and services of the two casual workers discontinued.